

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1922
Date: 26th September 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Can you tell me how many gun licences have been approved over the past two years. Can I get a breakdown of area/age/sex please (if this is too costly though omit it)

How many licences been rejected and can you provide the reasons why.

Firearms Licensing statistics are produced by tax year (1st April to 31st March). The tables below provide a breakdown of applications which were granted and refused, by Processing Centre.

2020/21 Processing Centre	Air Weapons		Shotguns		Firearms	
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused
Aberdeen	368	0	20	0	17	0
Falkirk	589	2	65	2	39	1
Dundee	701	5	141	6	107	3
Edinburgh	89	0	10	0	7	0
Glasgow	1034	6	193	2	148	0
Inverness	1035	8	376	10	258	7
Glenrothes	677	4	88	2	91	0
Dumfries	388	2	84	3	61	2
Total	4,881	27	977	25	728	13

2021/22 Processing Centre	Air Weapons		Shotguns		Firearms	
	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused	Granted	Refused
Aberdeen	451	0	18	1	21	0
Falkirk	315	0	22	0	17	0
Dundee	437	2	134	6	111	4
Edinburgh	85	5	48	0	23	0
Glasgow	861	25	360	11	208	8
Inverness	908	4	412	13	307	7
Glenrothes	624	6	235	6	122	2
Dumfries	233	5	120	3	65	2
Total	3,914	47	1,349	40	874	23

OFFICIAL

Please be advised that the term 'rejected' is not used in legislation.

An application is refused if the Chief Constable is satisfied that they do not meet the legislative criteria.

The reasons for refusal are listed under Section 27 and 28 of the Firearms Act 1968 or Section 5 of the Air Weapon and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015.

In relation to your request for a breakdown by age and gender of the applicant, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with this, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the licensing system SHOGUN has no facility which allows for the age or gender of certificate holders or applicants to be easily extracted.

As such, each individual application would have to be manually examined to establish the details of the person - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

It should be noted that statistics regarding Firearms Licensing are available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link:-

[Firearms and Explosives Licensing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

OFFICIAL

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.